In the early days of Pocahontas County Agriculture was the chief pursuit of the early settlers . Because travel was difficult and transportation facilities were meager, the settlers were compelled to be self- supporting or self- sustainning

The coming of the Greenbrier Division of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway running through Pocahontas County, and connecting with the Western Maryland Railway at Durbin , and the hard surfaced roads that pass through Pocahontas County, with all its rock based secondary roads , has made ingress and egress , free and facilitative for economic and social science of the business men of the adjoining Counties of West Virginia; The establishment of the County lines have brought about no restriction of trade relations between the Counties that have common lines with Pocabonta County. Highland , and Bath, Counties of the State of Virginia are contguous or border Counties , but trade relations exist between the above named bordering Counties of Virginia , with the same degree of Social Economy as with Greenbrier , Webster, Randalph and Pendleton Counties of West Virginia;

However ,the trade relations between Pocahontas County and the bordering Counties of Virginia are subject to the State laws of each State ,and each adjoining bordering County ,in trade relations ,observe the civil laws of their neighbor States.

At the present time Pocahonta s County ,formes a part of an economical whole, and is economically related to all its adjoining Counties , especially in that part of economics that pertain to and treats of that portion of human activity which is concerned with earning a living and trade relations.

Ruben Buzzard next neighbor lived on the farm where Emery Shinabery now lives. Their first church was built of logs after the Civil War. It has since been replaced by a nice frame building.

Copied from the church records:

"Baxter Presbyterian Church built during the summer of 1858, dedicated to the service of Almighty God, on the 27th day of August 1858, dedication to the service by Rev. Charles C. M. See. Text 127 Psalm, part of the first verse. By order of the Greenbrier Presbyterian this church was organized by John C. Barr, 21st day of August, 1859, with sixteen members from Liberty Church as follows: Robert D. McCutchan, Robery Curry, Ruling Elders; Elizabeth McCutchan;Nancy McLaughlin; Samuel McCutchan, Christine Jane McCutchan; Elizabeth Curry; Caroline Nottingham; Nancy McCutchan, Matilda Craig; Caroline Warwick; John B. McCutchan; Robert R. McCutchen; William McCutchan; Elizabeth E. McCutchan."

Pastors who have served the church: Rev. J. C. Barr; Rev. R. P, Kennedy Rev. M. C. Dunlap; Rev. A H. Hamilton; Rev. J. h. McCown; Rev. Wm. Price; Rev. E. F, Alexander; Rev. R. M. Caldwell; Rev. H. W, McLaughlin; Rev. R. T. Pultz; Re. Bain; Rev. J. S. Kennison, Rev. D. M. Monroe.

The seminary students who have endeared themselves by their faithful service to many of God's people and helped many to become children of His Kingdon, are ,Rev. J. V. McCall; Rev. A. D. Watkins; Rev. Lewis Lancaster; now a missionary in China; Rev. Marion Sydenstricker, now a missionary in Brazil.

This church has one outpost at McLaughlin school house which has added many members to the church, two deacons, and established many Christian homes.

The Church during the Civil War camped in this nice new church which had been so comfortably furnished, and left it a wreck for many years.

1890 and 1891 under the leadership of Rev. W. H. Ballengee the Methodist Episcopal Church, South was built. It was dedicated in August 1891, by Dr. J. W, Young. Trustees were William H. Cackley, Jacob Taylor, C. R. Moore and E. N. Moore. The Lewisburg District Conference met at this church at that time.

The first school at Dunmore was taught at the Chesley Moore House. The first school on the McLaughlin neighborhood was taught by Jacob C. Mclaughlin, near present location. He was later called to war and killed at the battle of Cedar creek in 1864. The schoolhouse was destroyed, and one term of school was taught in an old house on what is known as the Carr place, where Ellitt Carpenter now lives. A school building of rough material was erected on the bank between the homes of Lawrence and Russell McLaughlin and school was in session at this point for about twenty years.

In the Dunmore Community are the following schools: Hillside, Buzzard, Thorny Creek, McLaughlin; Curry; and Dunmore. The Dunmore School was started in a one room building in the year of 1880. Miss Emma Warwick was the first teacher.

Dunmore is noted for its fine mineral springs. The Lithia Spring is gaining favor for its purity and the analysis shows this spring to be very similar to the famous Eureka Springs in Arkansas.

The valuable white pine invited many lumberman. The first railroad brought to Pocahontas county was located on Thomas Creek. The fat sleek horses bear the honor of the transportation of this railroad from Staunton, Virginia. A large portion of the lumber was floated out of Setlington Creek into the Greenbrier River and on to Ronceverte.

From the Pocahontas Times ***Feb.3,1927

sail, the home government reversed its policy and gave liberty of

Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.
Feb. 16, 1940

Chapter 4 - Section 4

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

The settlers who came into Pocahontas from 1840 to 1860 were of the same type as the earlier ones with the exception of two small nationality groups. The Irish came during the potato famine in Ireland. Among the Irish who came were the Cloonans, Sullivans and Conways. Some Irish, of course, had come before this time.
I can find no census of nationality groups and I believe none was kept, as the groups were not overly large, and they soon lost their racial integrity by intermarriage, or they moved on elsewhere and did not settle in nationality groups for long, if at all.

THE DUTCH BOTTOM SETTLEMENT IN THE 1840's

The Reform church was established as the church of the Netherlands. Naturally there were many who protested against a move to mix the church and state. Pearl Buck in her book "The Exile" says there were 300 in the band in which her people sailed for America. They came to Pennsylvania to settle on land purchased by paper, but which turned out to be swamp land on which they could not even hope to exist. Many of them went back to the cities. About 100 of them came on south into what is now Pocahontas County.
The land in Pocahontas County was purchased from Paul McNeel by Rev. William Schimmerhorn of New York. This land was on the Williams River and the place was known as Dutch Bottom after its settlement. This land was a high, level, fertile plain, free of swamps. There were wild mountains all around them. Upon this land stood great forests. The Indians marched around them, though not hostile, they were terrifying to the Dutch. How strange and hard it was for these city-bred men and women, accustomed to the ease of a wealthy Dutch City, knowing nothing of farming and country life. Many of their number moved on again in those first two years, and in their third year the minister, who was their leader, died.
These hardships were the more hard to endure because within six months after they set sail, the home government reversed its policy and gave liberty of worship to its

Dutch Bottom Settlement - cont'd

citizens.

During the winter of 1858 this small company of about 60 persons disbanded. Crops had not been good, and the men realizing they knew so little about farming, and their inability to endure the hardships of pioneer life in Pocahontas, wanted to move to some town to go into some business there.

Among those who remained in Pocahontas were the Stultings (Pearl Bucks grandparents) and the Van Reenans, of which there are many in the county today.

The Stultings built their new house on the edge of the English settlement of Hillsboro in Little Levels.

Most of the Van Reenans today live on the Stony Creek section of the County in Edray District.

From - The Exile - Buck

Pocahontas Times - April 27, 1939

History of Poca. - Price

During these two decades 1840 - 1860 we did not get so many settlers as the west was being settled at that time and people passed on over going farther west. So many of our own people, especially from Little Levels, also moved on. There are so many McNeels, Beards, Callisons, Poages, Hills, Gays, Bridgers and Clunens from Pocahontas in one county in Missouri that it was often called "Little Virginia" Others also went to Ohio and Indiana. In 1840 the population of Pocahontas was 2,922 and in 1860 only 3,958 an increase of only 1,036 persons.

Calvin Price

History of Poca. - Price

The upper part of the County had been mostly populated by the Germans and French, and the lower part of the county primarily by the Scotch - Irish. While the German names are still dominant in upper Poca, and the Scotch - Irish names in lower Poca, yet they have intermarried and did not long remain separate nationality groups.

During this period 1810 to 1860 farms in the county increased in number, but decreased in size. The original land holders who had owned, sometimes, thousands of acres began to divide them among their heirs, or to sell off portions of their vast estate. Mrs. L. M. Coyner here at Clover Lick tells me that her people, the Warwicks, lost a lot of their land by going on bonds or notes, and that the land was sold sometimes for as little as 50 cents per acre. This was, perhaps true of many of the land owners of the county. For in going through their wills and the settlement of their estates, I found that many of them were on notes and bonds.* *After these large farms or plantations were divided the average farm was from 200 acres to 1000 acres. They are still being divided yet today, until only one the Hevener estate in Greenbank District remains undivided. Many of the estates have passed completely out of the hands of the heirs of the original owners.

These people, of course, traded with each other to some extent. Bartering was done in Pocahontas as elsewhere. Work, however, was the one thing they traded most with each other, for work was the one thing needed most to turn the wilderness into farms and to erect their log houses. When a man had a house to build or a field to be cleared, all the neighbors helped him and he in turn helped them. "Log rollings" and "house raisings" got much work done and also gave a chance for social contact not only for the men but for the women who got together and prepared the feast. Then there were the "husking bees" and "quilting parties", all of which probably ended up in a dance that night. Work not exchanged was paid for with produce instead of money. (These will be taken up more in Chapter 5)

Their cattle, horses and sheep were sold to Lancaster, Pa., to Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, Staunton and Winchester. Richmond especially was an excellent market for horses. The settlers would load up their pack horses with furs, hides, dried deer meat called deer saddle, a little leather, some few persons took a small amount of tobacco. They would go across the mountain, sell, or exchange their goods for lead, a little sugar and a little cloth, though most of the cloth was made at home. Their pack horses were also sold.

Juanita S. Dilley — Pocahontas County -- Ch. 4 Section 4a - 5

History of Marlinton

In 1751 General Andrew Lewis and Captain John Stuart came to Marlins Bottom and found Jacob Marlin and Stephen Seivell living here without families. Marlin and Seivell were of the Daniel Boone type who did not bother to take title to the land upon which they lived. So Lewis had the first go at surveying the land at this place and claiming it as his own grant. This survey was respected and the settlers who came in settled up Price Run or Stony Creek. But it is on the Lewis survey that most of the town of Marlinton is built, on the oldest and best title in West Virginia. The stump of the old corner oak marked by Lewis is still standing. This is the oldest land mark east of the Mississippi River.

Be it known that under the Albany treaty of 1722, white people had no right to survey on the western waters—that is Mississippi drainage--in 1751.

However, Lewis and others had a plan to colonize the Greenbrier Valley under the name of the Greenbrier Company, and this company fooled the King and Council into believing the Greenbrier flowed into the James River. Under this pretense, a charter was given to take up for settlement a hundred thousand acres of land in the Greenbrier country.

Now the question naturally arises why did not Andrew Lewis go further and include in his survey the fine bottom lands of the Fair Ground and adjoining farms. It is believed that Jacob Marlin laid claim to that part of the bottom for his own. The only basis for this belief is that twenty-five years later Lawrence Drinnon had his fort on the present Fair Grounds and his wife was Sallie, a daughter of Jacob Marlin.

As soon as Lewis and others began to survey out land on the Greenbrier River, the Indians through the Long House of the Six Nations began to send word to London about the violation of the treaty of 1722. Orders of the King and Council did not keep the Scotch-Irish back; they merely left their surveying tools at home. We know that Jacob Warwick's mother, Elizabeth Dunlap Sitlington, was living at Marlinton in 1765. They wrote a letter back to the folk in Ireland. The letter was from Greenbrier. The king got suspicious of the description of the land that lay north and west of Cowpasture River. According to his views it should have been limited to the Alleghaney Mountains for its western boundary

In the meantime settlers who had come in here had stirred up trouble with the Indians and started the French and Indian War. After they had killed Braddock, the Indians

ided Marlins Bottom and killed and captured 18 persons. This was August 12, 1755.

Lewis had been here in a kind of fort called Fort Greenbrier just before and after Braddock's defeat, but he had taken some Indian prisoners at this place and marched them to Fort Dinwiddle on the eastern side of the Allegheney.

Finally four years after Virginia had become an independent state and called herself the Commonwealth of Virginia, Lewis got his deed. Thomas Jefferson, Governor, reciting that Lewis had made composition with the commonwealth by the paying of two shillings, he was given a grant or deed for 480 acres of land at the mouth of Weings(knob) Creek by virtue of a survey made Oct. 11, 1751. This deed was given June 2, 1780. The Revolution had been about won by that time. The generals delay in proving up his land claims can easily be accounted for by the fact that he was bust with the affairs of the French and Indian War and he had been detained as a prisoner of war in Canada.

He came back from Canada in broken health in 1780, leaving a will by which he gave the 480 acres at Marlins Bottom to his son John Lewis. John Lewis died the next year leaving the land to four of his children, Charles, Samuel, Andrew and Eliza. They in turn sold it to Jacob Warwick and Warwick signed the title bond to William Poage Jr. as a marriage portion. Poage was a Major in the war of 1812. He was one of the charter members of the court that formed Pocahontas County, and was shefiff of the county. He died in 1827 leaving the land to two of his children, Woods Poage and Margaret Poage (Mrs. James A. Price).

The next move in title was that Woods Poage sold his half of the land to his brothe in-law James A. Price, this gave the Prices 2,211 acres in and around Marlins Bottom. Later James Price sold the Woods Poage farm to Dr. George B. Moffett, who in turn sold one half of it to Hugh McLaughlin. When the town site was proposed in 1891 as the last of the Virginia Boom towns, the title was in the names of the following persons: William H. McClintic, William J. McLaughlin, A. M. McLaughlin, Samuel D. Price, William T. Price, James H. Price and Levi Gay.

These were all farms. There were no commercial activities whatever. Huntersville was town. Buckeye and Edray were the nearest stores

From:--1928 Blue Book by Andrew Price

From:--Pocahontas Times--Dec. 24, 1936

In December of 1890 an epoxh making snow fell, making it the winter of the big snow. While it lay on the ground to the depth of three feet or more, Colonel John T. McGraw of Grafton made a visit to this county and purchased the farms known as Marlins Bottom for a town site. The name of the postoffice had been changed in 1887 from Marlins Bottom to Marlinton. Mrs. Janie B. Skyles, a Maryland lady, was instrumental in bringing about the change. She objected to the word Bottom as not being a nice word. The old timers were horrified when they found thename had been changed, but the harm had been done and all appeal to congress failed to undo the harm. Mr. Skyles soon afterwards moved away but she left us christened with a new name.

The purchase of the town site by Colonel McGraw was the first intimation that the people had of the proposed railway developments. The plan was that the Camden System of railroads was to extend up Williams River, across the divide at the head of Stony Creek and to Marlinton. It was a part of the plan that the Chesapeake and Ohio would build an extension from Hot Springs to Marlinton to connect with the Camden. The railroad was not built at that time because of a money panic which came to the county. Colonel McGraw, who had invested largely in lands elsewhere in the county, neger ceased to try to interest capitalists in this county and develop it w th a railroad. His attention was called to the natural route for a railroad up Greenbrier River. He had a survey made from Marlinton to Roncevert at a cost of $10,000, and it was on this location that the railroad was afterwards begun in 1899 and finished in 1901.

The town of Marlinton was laid off in town lots in 1891, and widely advertised as a place where a town could be built. The Pocahontas Development Company was chartered and took a deed for 640 acres on which the town was to be built. They put valuable improvement on it. An offer of $5,000 to be applied on a new courthouse was made, if the people of the county would change the county seat from Huntersville to Marlinton. The election held in the fall of 1891 gave the county seat to Marlinton. At that time Marlinton had a population of about 100 people.

Marlinton began to improve as soon as the railroad was completed. It was incorporated at the April Term of Court, 1900, and held its first election on May 5, 1900.

THE [illegible] OF HILLSBORO COMMUNITY

(By Mary Isetta Wallace)

The town of Hillsboro is located in a rich and beautiful valley. It is two and one-half miles from the nearest railroad station called Seebert and named in honor of a family by the name which settled there in the wilderness in the early days. Hillsboro was named for Richard Hill, the pioneer from North Carolina who built his home on a good farm in the neighborhood of Lobelia. His house was an unusually good one for that age. Simon Girty, the renegade, told that the Indians were so impressed with the fine display of the home of Mr. Hill that they called him the White's Big King.

The house was built of hewed logs, and the space between was filled with wood and mortar or mud, and then whitewashed. It had three porches, two tall chimneys and eight rooms. Hills Creek was named for Mr. Hill, and, because of his sterling worth, "will sing his requiem as long as its waters flow". The creek flows through a narrow channel which increases its velocity until it plunges over a precipice more than sixty feet high, forming a perfect spray and creating the beautiful Falls of Hills Creek.

Bruffeys Creek, named after the first settler, John Bruffey the pioneer, Revolutionary soldier under General Wayne, unites in time of flood with Hills Creek where their waters sink under Droop mountain to appear again in the lower end of the Little Levels. Hills Creek forms Locust Creek and empties into the Greenbrier River. [illegible] Creek forms Hughes Creek, and after sinking and partly sinking for two miles, empties into the Blue Hole. Many of the numerous progeny of Richard Hill [illegible] their homes in the Hillsboro community.

The majority of the people of Hillsboro Community are of Scotch Irish descent, their chief pursuits being agriculture and stock raising. Many fine herds of cattle and sheep, from time immemorial, have been prepared for the eastern markets, and at the present time under the stimulus of our county agent, Mr. H.C. C. Willey, the farmers are becoming thoroughly aroused as to the importance of purebred stock.

As the traveler ascends by an easy climb and gentle undulations the winding road cut on the face of Droop Mountain he beholds a panorama of unsurpassed loveliness when the sun pours his effulgent warmth and brightness over mountains, plains, valleys and hills as they unite in proclaiming "The Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice." He also beholds historic ground, for it was at the foot of Droop Mountain where General Averill with 5000 men pitched their tents before the battle of Droop Mountain which began on November 6, 1863.

Hillsboro has always been a religious and educational center. John Jordan of Pioneer fame, gave a building site to the Methodist church, which was destroyed by fire. They have since built four other churches in the community and now worship in a very comfortable, commodious building in the town of Hillsboro. In extracts from the journal of Rev. Francis Asbury, we find that in the years 1788, 1790 and 1792 he made three evangelistic tours through this section of the country, coming up through Greenbrier County, each time and being entertained and preaching at the home of McNeel in the Little Levels, going from there to the Drinnen home where he was received so "gladly" and entertained so "kindly" in the Edray neighborhood. His course led from there to Cloverlick, down through Tygarts Valley in Randolph County enroute to Morgantown. At the McNeel home lively religious discussions were indulged in by the whole community.

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church was organized in the year 1793. The early records of the Church were lost and no one remembers when it was built. A substantial brick structure in which this sect worshiped for many years was later built south east of Hillsboro, where the cemetery is still kept up. In 1830 the church was re-organized and Josiah Beard, Davis Pogue, and John Jordan were elected elders. The most distinguished ministers who served this Church from 1820 to 1872 were Rev. Joseph Brown, Rev. Wm. S. Campbell, Rev. John S. Blain, Rev. Mitchel S. Dunlap and Rev. D. S. Sydenstricker.

In the early part of the eighteenth century a very important educational work flourished in what was then the Village of Hillsboro. Under the supervision of Rev.

[illegible], the brick Academy was built and contained one large-central room with [illegible]. The name of Hillsboro was abandoned in deference to that of "Academy" so [illegible] was the impression of the schools' influence on the minds and hearts of the [illegible]ple. In recent years the old name of Hillsboro has been restored to the town.

[illegible]. A. Dunlap, of Ponca City, Oklahoma, has contributed some recollections of [illegible]e bellum days from his remarkable memory of conversations heard in the home of his [illegible]le, Rev. W. A. Dunlap. He thinks the first teacher ever in Hillsboro community [illegible] a man by the name of Keenan who taught more than a hundred years ago. This teacher [illegible] considered a very learned man from the fact that he could read and write and had [illegible]gured in the arithmetic as far as the rule of three.

The next teacher was Rev. John S. Blain, a Presbyterian preacher, a teacher, [illegible] a physician. He is described as a large, lean, strong man, possessed of a kindly [illegible]e and gentle heart. The description is somewhat contradictory as he is said to [illegible]ve whipped 13 boys the second day of school, 21 the third day, and five or six [illegible]ch day for about a week. After that no further trouble was experienced. But the [illegible]chool had an unsavory reputation that had to be disciplined and he used the means [illegible] this his power. The wife of Dr. Blain was a Miss MacRoberts, sister of Archibald [illegible]cRoberts, who made his home with them, told that panthers would sometimes enter [illegible]heir spring house and drink their milk. Mrs. MacRoberts, whose father was Randolph, [illegible] of Roanoke, and a descendent of Pocahontas, was the next teacher. He was well educated [illegible] and a man of great talents that he used only under compulsion. He was a Whig, and [illegible]n a campaign then being conducted between a Whig and a Democrat, in which the Whig [illegible]was defeated in the argument, Mr. MacRoberts became so disgusted that he followed [illegible]them to the next appointment and so completely routed the Democrat that he made it [illegible]well to steer clear of his antagonist.

[illegible] The next teacher was Rev. Joseph Brown, whose gentle Christian character [illegible]ecommended it to the people; and it is to be taken forgranted that as he was instrumental [illegible]in the building of the brick Academy, he must have been the first teacher within its [illegible]walls. Rev. [illegible]. D. Dunlap succeeded him and taught from 1838 to 1844. His school had a [illegible]wide reputation among his people and enjoyed the patronage of the Lewises and

...s of Kanawha county; Tyrees and others of Fayette county; the Haynes and others ...nroe county; the Johnsons, Bears, and others of Greenbrier county; the ...nsons, Lightners, and Ruchmans, of Highland county, Virginia, and the Lewises ...d others of Bath county, Virginia. He taught throughout the entire year and ...ought the help of the more advanced pupils, notably, Rev. Wm. P. Price and Rev. ...ames Haynes. It was his opinion that about eighty pupils were as many as one man coulo handle.

Miss Mary Sprinkel taught in the home of Colonel McNeel, the first year of the Civil War, and was betrothed to John Burgess, the first man from this community to be killed by the Northern soldiers in their initial raid through the country.

From the foregoing interesting data it is easy to understand why so many noble and worthy lives were molded in this fine institution of learning. The lives of Mr. Barnanius Stulting and family deserve special mention. They were natives of Holland, and to escape religious persecution, braved the perils of the deep on the rude craft of that day and came to dwell among us when the country was in its infancy. They were valuable additions to the social life of the community and through their devoted piety accomplished much good in this land of their adoption. Mr. Cornelius Stulting, eldest son in the family, was a fine teacher for many years and died recently, mourned by all who knew him. Mrs. Carrie Stulting Sydenstricker, a daughter in the family, gave her life as a missionary to China, being sent as a member of Oak Grove Church.

Pioneers. The first permanent settler in the wilderness of the Hillsboro community was John McNeel, of Frederick County, Virginia. He was of a pugilistic temperament and in the fear that he had slain his antagonist, fled from his native land and became a fugitive who followed the trend of the Alleghenies. After spending sometime in their gloomy depths he emerged into this section of the country and was so favorably impressed with the fertile land, fine timber and the general outlook of a goodly place to dwell, that he cast his tent on the gentle slope between where are now the gate at the road and the Father John McNeel residence. He came here in the year 1765. After he began to occupy his tent steps were heard circling the camp

night. He feigned sleep, keeping his gun near at hand, until he heard something creep upon the poles forming the roof. When he looked in the direction of the sound he beheld, by the light of the camp fire, the fiery eyes of a panther. He lost no time in getting rid of the unwelcome visitor.

On day while out hunting for venison and fish he met Charles and Jacob Kennison, natives of his home land, who proved angels in disguise in bringing to him the glad tidings that the man he thought he had killed had recovered and was in good health. Imagination fails to convey the great relief and gratitude that filled his heart to know he was not a murderer, of which his future life gave convincing evidence. He invited the Kennisons to share his camp and aided them in selecting a home site adjoining his tract. About this time John McNeel must have built himself a cabin in the rear of the Matthew John McNeel residence, near a wonderful spring in that locality. These three men soon returned to the lower valley of Virginia. It was on this visit that he married Martha Davis who was born in Wales in 1840. Soon after their marriage they came to the Little Levels to make their home. They brought with them a Welch Bible now in the possession of Joseph S. McNeel, son of Captain William Lamb McNeel.

Joseph McNeel is the man who offered, free of charge, marble or granit to build our new State Capitol. This stone exists in great abundance within our beautiful hills that encompass our mountains and that shelter our valley on the West. It has been a source of great disappointment to many to have such a generous offer rejected and one that if it had been accepted would have filled the heart of every citizen with a just and civic pride.

John McNeel was so deeply impressed with a sense of God's providential care that, in gratitude of him, he built the White Pole Church on the hill set apart for the McNeel Cemetery, the first church in the community. These three men joined the expedition to Point Pleasant in October 10, 1774. They were spared to return home, for a short time, as they enlisted in a company formed in Frederick County, Virginia, during the Revolution. After that experience they returned to the Country and resumed "the even tenor of their lives".

A pathetic tradition informs us that while some McNeel was at Point Pleasant [illegible] was born and died before his return, and that the mother, with her own hands, [illegible] the coffin, dug the grave and buried the child. This was the first grave in the [illegible]el cemetery, near the White Pole Church, which spot affords such charming landscape views of the surrounding country.

And now we come to the northern section of the Millsboro community which is Mill Point, a charming little industrial village including within its proper limits a store, a blacksmith shop, two flour mills and three homes. Many more homes are close by built on the hills and nestling in the coves and glens. Tourists exclaim over the majestic sweep of the hills and their graceful contour as they converge toward the village enclosing a scene of entrancing beauty.

Just above the village a beautiful and picturesque spring is found tucked away in a sheltered nook among the lovely foothills that dip their feet into the laughing waters of Stamping Creek, informing each other that the whites were aroused and that they must flee.

The people who live in this community are the McNeels, Beards, Clarks, Morrisons, Clutterings, Bruffeys, Hills, Moores, Clutters, Auldridges, Harpers, Kennisons, Wades, Haines, McCartys, McCoys, Smiths, Cockleys, Ruckmans, McLaughlins and others.

(In the preparation of this article the writer is greatly indebted to Dr. Wm. T. Price's History of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, Border Warfare, as well as to friends and neighbors).

From - Pocahontas Times

[illegible] 6, 1926.

OTHER EARLY SETTLERS.

Other early settlers in Pocahontas County were Thomas Drennin, William Sharp, Robert Moore, John Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Robert Gay, William Poage, Patrick Slaterly, Robert Duffie, Thomas Brock, Lawrence Drennin and John Smith, who settled in what is now Edray District.

James Lewis, Alexander Waddell, James Brinnell, John Switzer, Richard Hill, William Clendenen, Abraham McNeel, Nathaniel Kennison, William Kennison, David Kennison, Josiah Beard, Thomas Beard and John Beard, who settled in what is now Little Levels District.

In Greenbank District the earliest settlements were made just prior to the Revolutionary War and the family name of some of the settlers who owned land in the Greenbank District between the years 1770 and 1799, were Gillispie, Given, McKeamys, Tallman, Townsend, Moore, Rucker, Hartman, Ingram, Jarvis, Warwick, Duncan, Sloan, McCartee, Cartmill, Taylor, Conrad, Kerney, Coberly, Nottingham, Rumbaugh, Covelaugh, Munson, Griffin, Wooddell, Lamb, Trimble, Kerr, Patton, Galligher, Galford, Higgins, Kincaid, Donovan, Mackley, Armstrong, Dysard, Taber, Tackett, Sutton and others not mentioned in the records. Many of these names have disappeared from the citizenship of the county, yet there remains the Tallmans, Warwicks, Taylors, Conrads, Nottinghams, Wooddells, Kerrs, Galfords, and Suttons, substantial citizens of the county.

These pioneers, regardless of where they settled, had to live in a very simple and rough way. Their houses were built with logs hewn and well notched down, covered with clap boards held on by weight poles, no nails were used in putting on the roof as all nails at that time were made in blacksmith shops east of the Alleghenies and the demand so great that they were not obtainable west of the mountains. The floors were made of puncheons; that is logs split in slabs and dressed smoothe with an adz. Frequently big slabs were used for tables and three legged stools for chairs and peffs in the walls for wardrobes, and the side walls were full of portholes for the purpose of defense against the Indians. Every home possessed a shop made rifle, which was considered the most valuable and useful article about the home.

The dress of men consisted of a fur cap, moccasins, pants and a fringed hunting shirt. Only the simplest ways of living were possible. The women worked hard from morning until night and the men had many things to do. No hours were spent in idleness; there were lands to be cleared; crops to be raised and harvested, game to be killed and the hides to be dressed. There is reason to believe, however, that these pioneers were a contented and happy people. They were all on equal footing, socially and financially and were a neighborly, help ful people towards each other.

Besides the hardships of the early settlers in establishing their homes, it was necessary to keep a constant lookout for hostile Indians and to have all means of defense ready in case of a sudden attack. The Indians were so crafty and deceitful that only the closest watchfulness saved the settlers from danger and death. In Greenbank District a fort was built called the Warwick Fort. Women and boys were taken to this fort and drilled with the use of a gun so that they would be prepared to defend themselves in case their homes were attacked. While there is no recorded history on the subject, it is a fact nevertheless that the early settlers lived in a state of suspense until the Indi[illegible] the early settlers

Greenbank District probably took the lead in industrial advancement. The first Tub Mill and Saw Mill in the Greenbank Community was owned and operated by the pioneer Wooddells; probably Joseph Wooddell, the Revolutionary War veteran, who settled on the lands of Abraham Ingram and Thomas Cartmill. Cartmill conveyed his land to Abraham Ingram on June 13th, 1798, and Ingram conveyed to Wooddell about 1800. Ingram may have developed the water power for this mill. The lumber that finished the old Colonial mansion house of Jacob Warwick's at Clover Lick was sawed on this mill and was furnished by Mr. Wooddell about 120 years ago. A Tilt Hammer was installed at this mill which was greatly needed by the pioneers in making

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liquories and other products that are sold not counting inheritance tax

and others which help to make up the revenue with which to operate

both local county and state and federal government.

Information. Court Records. Marlinton. W. Va.

At the June meeting of the County Court of 1859 they ordered Josiah Beard,George Edmiston,James Kellison and Jessey Cochran to act as a commission to view a site for a road from the old Beard mill on Locust Creek to Spice Run with intersection with the road leading up Little Creek and thence to the Greenbrier County line .It was at this same meeting of the court that the county levy was layed amounting to $2,772.80 and of this amount $1,116.84 was to go to meet the needs of the poor.

No doubt the first Notary Public to serve Pocahontas County was none other than William Skeen as he was commissioned by the Governor of Virginia January.1.1860 to serve as a notary for Bath,Alleghany and Pocahontas Counties and from that time to the present we have had men commissioned as Notarys for the County and state.It was at this same time that William Curry was commissioned a title as special commissioner to settle and adjust all accounts that came before the court.At the May term of court it was deemed advisable to take a poll of the county to see whether or not the court should buy a farm to be used in caring for the poor, this poll was to be taken the last of May.1860.William Skeen was chosen as attorney for the commonwealth of this county for a term of 4 years starting July 1.1860.Isaac McNeel was elected Sheriff of the county for a two year

[illegible] with John S Woodell,Charles W Weaver,James F

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Gum and Amos Barlow as his deputies.James F.Moore was elected commissioner of the revinue of Pocahontas County for a term of two years starting Febuary I.I86I.

The county levy of I860 was $ 2,485.6I to be collected from II52 tithables and the following July term the court layed the levy for I86I which amounted to $ 2,458.58 from II43 tithables.

It was on March I86I that a committee composing of John McNeel,John W.Ruckman and Wm.C Kinnison were appointed to view a way for a road from the Pheobe McNeill mill on Swago Creek up the mountain to David Burgesses by way of Spruce Flats thence to Beaver Dam on Williams River and today this old road is visible but not in use,this road was on what is known as the Young Mountain but was replaced in later years by a road up near Camp Secret Hollow and on to Williams River.

At the February term I862 the Justices of the county were summoned by the court to appear before that body pertaining to the matter of getting salt from the salt works located in Smyth County Virginia,known as the Stuart Buchanan Company.Allen C.Burner was chosen to act as agent for the county,as the county could only get her quota which was distributed equally among the inhabitants of Pocahontas County.Shortly after this we obtained salt from The Washington Salt Works all this salt was put out by the Governor of the state of Virginia and distributed

in their families.So all the salt used on the western waters came from old Virginia,having to be brought great distances often by pack horse and in later years by wagons that made trips to the Eastern side for supplies twice yearly in the Spring and in the Fall,this made salt very high but was very essential to the inhabitants of what is now Pocahontas County as there was no laws on game of any kind and their principal meat supply came from the Deer,Bear,Wild Hogs,Turkeys and other wild game that roamed this vast wilderness during the first half of the 18 th century,this meat had to be preserved by salt,besides what was used in salting the domestic animals of the Pioneers of this county.So it is plain to be seen that the County Court at that time had a very difficult task administering these alloted products,and it was about this time that an agent was chosen by the court to obtain medicine from old Virginia for the inhabitants of the what is now Pocahontas County,as all supplies had to be passed on by the Governor of Virginia,that is the salt,medicine and other goods that had to be processed in different parts of Virginia and sent out to her many localities within her borders.

It was no little task for these gentlemen to adninister to such a vast terretory as Pocahontas ranks third in area of square miles with 942.61 being surpassed by only Randolph and Greenbrier.Pocahontas having 4 magisterial districts with 30 voting precincts,is in the 2 nd. Congressional District,

the 12 th Senatorial District and in the II th.Judicial Circuit as of 1840.Serving this vast terretory was no easy task at that time when their only mode of travel was either on foot or on horseback and these men had to assemble at the County Seat which was Huntersville from all parts of the county to administer justice to the inhabitants from all sections.And be it said that we people here in Pocahontas County today owe much to these men that gave their services in order that we might have a good county Government,a prosperous county and a good county in which to live,with laws enacted by these county courts that have protected our rights and gave us a good county government.

Information.County Court Order Books # 5 & 6 .Marlinton.W.Va.

state and this is particularly true in Pocahontas as at the time of the formation of a new county in 1821 the taxes collected by Virginia of which we were a part were a mere trifle but the population in this section at that time received very little consideration in any way, but after Pocahontas was formed and our county government was in the midst of its' people right away we began to grow more taxes were collected from year to year, which was spent wisely on necessary improvements and today Pocahontas County the third largest county in the state in area has advanced greatly by developing her resources cleared our level fertile sections that today produce our vast numbers of livestock and grain that in turn make up our property for taxation that the county is operated on.

Pocahontas County has a very effecient county government for her people by her people and for her people.

Information. County Records. Marlinton. W.Va.

Jay Buckley. Buckeye. W.Va.

W.Va. Blue Books 39-40.

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County Government. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W.Va. Pocahontas Co. # 2

retire or pay off these bonds, much of our county roads have been built by issuing bonds.

The gasoline tax and the money derived from the sale of automobile license have lifted a great burden from the county governments shoulders as a means of raising revenue to build and maintain our class (A) roads while our secondary or class (B) roads were kept up by county taxes until 1932 when the state took over all roads in the state, all machinery and equipment that was owned by by the counties throughout the state. Pocahontas County has approximately 1,500 passenger cars, 350 trucks and 10 motorcycles that travel the roads throughout the county that they themselves help to build and maintain by gasoline tax and license.

Until about 1933 and 34 many sections of the county were without roads but since that time the W.P.A and the C.C.C have built roads until at the present time there are very few sections in the entire county without a farm to market road and roads have been built by the C.C.C into the more mountainous sections where wild life is plentiful and plenty of room for recreation, and it is on many of these roads that we find our state flower the Rhododendron which is so prevalent in Pocahontas. With the coming of the hard road and the automobile old dobbin the horse began to decline in numbers until today horses and horse drawn vehicles are seldom seen on our main highways. Prior to 1934 the county had a general county road fund

County Government.Samuel G.Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va. Pocahontas Co.# 3.

also a District Road fund and in this way if a certain district wanted to build some extra road over and above their allotment from both the general county fund and what they might have available in their district road fund,they could issue bonds to be retired by extra taxation on this particular district.((Report next week will deal with the bond issues of Pocahontas County from time to time.)))))))))))))

In 1926 when A.C Barlow was elected to the County court replacing L.H Williams the court had three Democratic members which is thought by many citizens in the county to be unsafe as it is thought that the minority party should have representation on the court who in turn represent the population of the county.In 1928 William M.Buckley of Buckeye ran for state senator carried the county by a good majority but failed to carry the other counties in this senatorial district.In this same year Dr.George F.Hull of Durbin was elected to the House of Delegates.In 1928 R.N Nottingham was elected Assessor with J.R Gum, L.S Callison and Miss Anna Lee Irvine as his deputies.S.Reid Moore was elected Sheriff on the Republican ticket with R.O Crowley,R.M Bruffey and Howard McElree as his deputies.

In 1932 R.N Buzzard was elected Sheriff on the Republican ticket with the same deputies that Moore had had.The late A.P Idar was ele-

d Prosecuting Attorney over his Republican opponent A.L Cooper and
Circuit Clerk Worth Nottingham was elected over his Republican opp-
ent D.C Adkison who had filled this position for 12 years prior to this
time. and Moody Kincade was successful for County Clerk over E.C Smith
the Republican candidate.R.N Nottingham was elected Assessor over Edd
Calford .R.W Brown was elected County Surveyor over John T.Nelson,with
C.A Sharp being elected over A.C Pifer for County Court member for Ed-
ray District,And to the House of Delegates the late F.R Hill was elected
over S.J Rexrode.In 1934 the citizens of the county voted on an amendm-
ent that that had had much criticism and comment up until that time the
ratification of the Prohibition amendment after much talk pro and con
the election was held and when the votes were counted it was found that
the vote stood for ratification 3988 and against ratification 2945.

In 1936 R.N Nottingham was elected Sheriff over Walter Shaf-
er his Republican opponent by a vote of 3902 to 3096,Nottingham chose as
his Deputies L.B Callison as Office Deputy,Frank McLaughlin,Ralph Moore
field deputies and O.B Curry as Jailor.For Prosecuting attorney Richard
F.Currence (Dem 4103) A.L Cooper(Rep)2854.For Assessor H.W Beard Dem)3787
Lloyd Vanreenen(Rep 3156.House of Delegates June McIlwee(Dem- 4117,S.J
Rexrode(Rep)3633.County Court F.A Pritchard, Dem 4131,W.W Marshall Rep.2721
and County Surveyor W.R Sutton Dem.3987 .Harper Adkison Rep.2566.

In the election of 1938 Z.S Smith jr was elected to the County Court over his Republican opponent by a vote of 2929 to 2110,June McIlwee was re-elected to the House Of Delegates from Pocahontas over his Republican opponent Dr.L.O McCutcheon 2813 to 2426.Moody Kincade was elected County Clerk over Merritt Kellison by a vote of 3426 to 1771,Richard McNeel of Millpoint having been appointed by the court to fill out the unexpired term of Kerth Nottingham resigned Clerk of The Circuit Court failed to run for the next term but Grady K.Moore was elected over D.C Adkison by a vote of 2980 to 2330.

About 1910 to 15 after all the virgin timber had been cut on our vast timbered areas numerous forest fires broke out burning over thousands of acres of this cut over land far back in the mountains the smoke being so dense it was crowded in by low humidity to our towns and villages until it caused visibility to be very poor and for many miles away the aroma of burning leaves was xxxy stifling,these fires had to be put out at the expense of the county so about this time thousands of dollars were paid out by our county court to men of the county for fighting fire,this was all done by fire wardens,who went about over the county warning men out to fight fires under their supervision or that of their assistants.

Information.County Court Records from 1932 to 40 Marlinton.W.Va.
W.Va.Blue Books from 1935 to 39.

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Jay Buckley.Buckeye.W.Va.

County Government.Samuel G.Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.# I.

The first settlers that settled on the western side of the Allegheny Mountains took up large tracts of land,especially along the Greenbrier River and other water courses in what later became Pocahontas County.Their taxes were very little but at that time money in any amount was hard to raise.One of these settlers and large land owners was John B.Buckleys grandfather who had 17,000 acres of land between Marlin-ton and Violet laying on both sides of the Greenbrier taking in the Buckley Mountains for which this chain of mountains was named,on this large tract the late John Buckley the pioneer paid 0.75 on this entire tract for one year,the taxes were payable at Staunton Virginia,thus this long trip to pay their taxes so you can easily see why a new county was formed and our county government brought closer home to the inhabitants of the upper portion of the Greenbrier Valey.Back about that time some of the Kellisons owned 350 acres near Violet and the owner said he would have to sell off part of his land because he could not pay the taxes which were only 0.75 for the entire tract,all of which was paid at Staunton Virginia,the money was hard to get and the trip to Staunton was long and tiresome,all of this and more led to the formation of Pocahontas County in 1821 as this section was getting very little if any benefits from the taxes they paid,this is by way of comparison of our taxes of today,but we do get protection,good roads,free and High Schools that they did not enjoy at that

time and it is very doubtful if this section would have advanced as it has, if it had not formed a seperate county functioning within its' self.

Pocahontas is and has long classed as an advanced educational county having had one of the first High Schools as it would be termed today the Old Academy at Hillsboro and one at Greenbank serving the people of both the upper and lower end of the county until today Pocahontas County has 3 accredited High Schools with 28 teachers, these High Schools are The Little Levels District High located at Hillsboro, Edray District High at Marlinton and Greenbank High School at Greenbank, besides our 60 elementary schools of these II are Graded Schools with more than one room and ~~in~~ we find 6 colored or Negro schools scattered about over the county where our colored population is the greatest. These 63 schools employ I36 teachers 28 employed by the High Schools while the remainder of I08 are employed for our elementary schools, this is less schools and less teachers than was used in the county up until about I933 when Consolidation was started, as we had around 80 schools up until that time that employed about I60 teachers.

Up until about I933 it took about half of the taxes collected in Pocahontas County to run our schools and pay our teachers as the state

id was very small up until that time but since that time the state has contributed greatly in our school system and revinue as in I939 the state contributed $ I75,5II.00 and in I940 the state sent to this County $ I6I,8I0.00 and the following is the amount spent by Pocahontas County in that year arrent taxes collected $ 62,6II.00 state aid $ I6I, 8I0.00 other receipts $ II,588.00 total receipts all funds $ 236,009.00 spent in Pocahontas County for school purposes all this money was raised by taxation of some sort either by our county levy or by taxes collected by the state in Pocahontas County and returned to the county in the form of State Aid to our school system,the state aid is determined by the amount of taxes that the state collects within our borders mostly by the Consumers Sales tax but others are collected also and a percent returned to the county.

Under our old tax system our County Court could raise what ever amount that their estimate called for but after the passage of the tax Limitation Ammendment they were not able to do this so other sources of revenue had to be estabolished to meet this shortage of money so if it was not for our state aid we would have shorter terms of school and our entire educational system curtailed.

The tax collected shows the growth and wealth of any county or

unty Government.Samuel G.Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co. # I.

The county roads when the county was first settled were mere trails cut out of our vast wilderness by the Indians,when the first white settlers came from beyond the Alleghenys they began to cut out these Indian trails that in the years that followed became our main highways,but the two roads of note were the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike coming from across the Allegheny Mountains and The Marlins Bottom Lewisburg Turnpike,these two roads led to supply lines, and Railroad centers outside our borders,and the revenue of the county went to keep up these two roads as they were the main ones used to get supplies in from Staunton,Millboro on the East and to the Greenbrier and Greater Kanawah Valleys on the South.These roads were plain dirt roads which became almost impassible in the fall and winter months,a greater part of these main roads were kept up for years from toll collected at various toll gates along these main highways,but these were gradually done away with and taxation kept them in repair.Along about 1900 the first macadam roads were built taking the place of the dirt roads that were so numerous throughout the county.The coming of the hard roads meant increased taxation and many times a certain district within the county would sell bonds in order to raise an amount sufficient to complete leading highways in this particular district,this meant higher rate of taxes